

national Committee made a useful contribution to this by demonstrating its confidence on several occasions in the impartiality of the National Society. A further example of this effectiveness and impartiality has just been given us by recent events which we have pleasure in mentioning to our readers :

Following on recent events, the National Red Cross Society considered that a useful purpose would be served if a Commission formed by three members of its directing council, Dr. Emilio Poitevin, Mr. Alfredo Mury Benz and Mr. David Melgar, were to visit prisons in the capital. It was in application of the agreement signed in 1960, which we have just quoted above and whose complete text<sup>1</sup> was published in the *Revue internationale*, that the visit took place following which the Commission concerned drew up a report which was submitted to the President of the Red Cross Society, Dr. Jorge von Ahn. This document dated June 8, 1962, and a copy of which was sent to Geneva, shows that the Commission accomplished its task most conscientiously and thoroughly, and it is noticeable for its outspokenness. It raises three problems : the condition of buildings, food and the treatment of prisoners. Concluding with the Commission's recommendations, the report is a testimony to the presence of the Red Cross in Guatemala and to the effectiveness of its action. It also demonstrates the understanding shown by the Guatemalan Government towards the National Society and the humanitarian task it is pursuing.

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## Hungary

The Hungarian Red Cross has published a report of its activities in English (*Hungarian Red Cross*). Attractively presented through the arrangement and the number of photographs it contains, this brochure gives a brief summary of the work accomplished during 1960 and 1961.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Revue internationale*, January 1961.

A short introduction explains, amongst other things, that the Hungarian Red Cross, having enlarged its services, has been able to meet the ever-increasing needs of the population in the light of Hungary's evolution.

Public health, the development of hygiene and the social position, have called for continuous effort and a constant improvement in that Society's methods of action. In order to meet these needs, well trained men and women attend various first-aid classes, courses in home nursing and in assistance and instruction to mothers. Some 67,600 persons attended such courses in 1961 and more than 20,000 volunteers attended lectures on hygiene during that period.

In co-operation with the trade-unions and doctors in factories, the 1,544 factory Red Cross organizations in Hungary have greatly contributed to improving hygienic conditions in industrial works thanks to the instruction which they receive.

" Activists " also work in the health centres which, numbering about one thousand at present, function in mines and factories and ensure the full application of regulations concerning cleanliness, safety at work and the first-aid services. Similar movements for protection against accidents and illness are organized in the villages by large numbers of " activists " responsible for some 4,000 sanitary posts and by more than 5,000 public health workers in rural areas.

The Hungarian Red Cross also takes part in social action for the protection of mothers, children and adolescents, as well as in every activity aimed at arresting and suppressing tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.

The campaign for voluntary blood donors has roused great enthusiasm throughout the country, thus demonstrating the devotion of many to the community at large. In fact out of some 94,800 new donors, 57,800 have given their blood voluntarily. Experience of the past two years has shown that the best method of encouraging voluntary donors is to send specially prepared mobile units to the spot. In 1961, the Society organized such working teams and, in view of the encouraging results obtained, it hopes to extend the idea of voluntary blood donations in the future.

It is concerned in many other activities and the photographs show us volunteers occupied in the streets in maintaining and watering green spaces and flowers, the cleaning of house fronts and the

control of hygiene in the markets. They also look after old people and arrange meetings for them.

Youth also co-operates and takes enthusiastic part in the movement, if one is to judge by some of the photographs. During 1960 and 1961 in 4,348 schools, 223,266 boys and girls carried out their Red Cross work in such spheres as cleanliness, the wrapping up of parcels for young friends abroad, the making of toys and manual work of all descriptions, as well as in studying and applying first-aid.

In 1960, six countries received relief and the National Society for its part responded generously to appeals launched on the international level, resulting in its coming to the aid of Algerian refugees, prisoners and civilians, and of the victims of events in Laos, Somalia, India and various other countries.

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